

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 STATE 058391
ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 IO-14 ISO-00 SSM-05 H-02
PA-02 INR-10 SS-15 SSO-00 INRE-00 /081 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/P:WBHARRIS:RGH
APPROVED BY NEA/P:REUNDELAND
S/PRS - MR. CARTER
H - MR. FLATEN
SSM - MR. MC ANDREW
NEA/IAI - MR. SMITH
NEA/ARN - MR. DRAPER
NEA/ARP - MR. TWINAM
NEA/EGY - MR. NEWBERRY
-----009569 072344Z /61

O 072214Z MAR 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MANAMA
AMEMBASSY RABAT
AMEMBASSY SANA
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
AMEMBASSY TUNIS
USMISSION SINAI
AMCONSUL DHAHRAN
USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 STATE 058391

USMISSION USNATO
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

USINT BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY DOHA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
USCINCEUR
DOD
JCS
CIA
USIA
NSC

UNCLAS STATE 058391

CINCEUR FOR POLAD, TEL AVIV FOR PAO, DELIVER BY 9 A.M.

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING - MARCH 7

1. FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE FOLLOWING ARE
EXCERPTS FROM DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING FOR MARCH 7, 1978.
FYI ONLY, SPOKESMAN TODAY WAS THOMAS RESTON.

Q. FOREIGN MINISTER DAYAN TOLD THE KNESSET YESTERDAY, IN
RELATION TO WHAT YOU WERE TALKING ABOUT YESTERDAY, THAT
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 STATE 058391

THE BEGIN ADMINISTRATION IN ISRAEL STILL SUBSCRIBES TO
U.N. RESOLUTION 242 AND FEELS THAT THE ISRAELI PEACE PLAN
IS CONSONANT WITH U.N. RESOLUTION 242. DOES THAT IN ANY
WAY CHANGE YOUR ASSESSMENT OF THE FACT THAT THERE IS A
DIFFERENCE OF OPINION IN THE INTERPRETATION OF U.N.
RESOLUTION 242 BETWEEN THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION AND
ISRAEL?

A. NO. BUT WE WENT THROUGH THIS DISCUSSION YESTERDAY
AT SOME LENGTH AND I AM REALLY NOT IN A POSITION TO
EMBROIDER ON THAT.

LET ME SAY THAT THERE HAVE BEEN SOME STORIES COMING OUT
OF OFFICIALS TRAVELING IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND WE HAD AN
EXTENSIVE DISCUSSION HERE YESTERDAY WITH REGARD TO THE

MEANING OF RESOLUTION 242, AND WHERE IT APPLIED -- AND
WE ARE JUST NOT GOING TO BE IN THE POSTURE OF BEING
ABLE TO SAY VERY MUCH FROM THIS PLATFORM PRIOR TO THE
TIME WHEN PRIME MINISTER BEGIN IS COMING HERE.

THERE ARE A WHOLE VARIETY OF ISSUES WHICH NEED TO BE

TAKEN UP BETWEEN PRESIDENT CARTER AND PRIME MINISTER BEGIN AND THEY HAVE A LOT OF TIME TO DO THAT WHEN HE COMES HERE, AND I JUST DON'T WANT TO BE IN THE POSITION HERE, OF MUDDYING THE WATERS PRIOR TO THESE IMPORTANT TALKS WHICH WILL TAKE PLACE IN WASHINGTON.

Q. THE WATERS HAVE BEEN MUDDIED ALREADY TODAY, ACCORDING TO YOUR DEFINITION, BECAUSE PRESIDENT CARTER HAS TOLD THE CONGRESSIONAL LEADERS THAT HE IS CONCERNED ISRAEL MIGHT RENOUNCE 242. WHAT DO YOU HAVE TO SAY ABOUT THAT?

A. I HAVE NOTHING TO SAY ABOUT THAT. I SAW THAT REPORT BUT I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING ON IT.
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 STATE 058391

Q. WELL THERE HAS ALSO BEEN A REPORT FROM THE MIDDLE EAST THAT THERE HAS BEEN PROGRESS ON THE VERY QUESTION THAT THIS GOES TO THE HEART OF, NAMELY, THE TERRITORIAL WITHDRAWAL.

HOW DO WE PUT THE TWO TOGETHER -- YOUR EXPRESSION OF "DIFFERENCES WITH ISRAEL" ON THE QUESTION -- AND THE FACT THAT YOU ARE NARROWING THE GAP AT THE SAME TIME?

A. WHILE I AM NOT GOING TO BE ABLE TO ADVANCE A CHARACTERIZATION VERY MUCH OF THOSE TWO EVENTS; I MEAN, I THINK THERE COULD BE SOME PROGRESS AND YET STILL REMAIN SOME DIFFERENCES.

I THINK THAT WHAT WAS SAID ON THE RECORD OUT THERE BY AN AMERICAN OFFICIAL IS JUST GOING TO HAVE TO STAY AND WE ARE NOT GOING TO HAVE A READOUT FROM THIS PODIUM ON THESE NEGOTIATIONS WHICH ARE GOING ON IN THE MIDDLE EAST NOW -- WE ARE JUST NOT IN A POSITION TO PROVIDE YOU A DAILY READOUT OF WHAT AN OFFICIAL MEANS WHEN HE SAYS "SOME PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE," OR "THE NARROWING OF GAPS." I AM JUST NOT GOING TO BE ABLE TO CHARACTERIZE IT ANY FURTHER THAN THE OFFICIAL OUT THERE DID.

Q. WERE YOU AWARE YESTERDAY THAT THE GAP HAD BEEN NARROWED WHEN YOU CONFIRMED THAT THERE WAS A DIFFERENCE WITH ISRAEL? WERE YOU AWARE OF WHAT WAS BEING SAID

IN THE MIDDLE EAST AT ALMOST THE SAME TIME AS YOU WERE SPEAKING HERE?

A. NO, I THINK THE FIRST TIME I SAW THOSE STORIES WAS
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 05 STATE 058391

THIS MORNING.

Q. YESTERDAY IN YOUR REPLY ON 242, YOU SAID THAT THE QUESTION OF IT APPLYING TO ALL FRONTS IS AN EXAMPLE OF THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE INTERPRETATION OF ISRAEL AND THE UNITED STATES. DOES THAT MEAN THAT THERE ARE OTHER DIFFERENCES REGARDING 242 INTERPRETATION -- APART FROM THE "ALL FRONTS" ISSUE?

A. NO, I DON'T THINK I WOULD WANT YOU TO READ THAT INTO WHAT I WAS SAYING YESTERDAY. THAT'S REALLY LAYING TOO MUCH STRESS ON THE WORD "ONE."

WE WERE TRYING TO ADDRESS THAT SPECIFIC INTERPRETATION OF RESOLUTION 242 -- BUT I AM NOT MEANING TO SUGGEST TO YOU THAT I HAVE A WHOLE LIST UP HERE OF THE DISAGREEMENTS ABOUT RESOLUTION 242 THAT I AM HIDING FROM YOU.

Q. BUT IN OTHER WORDS THIS IS THE ONLY DIFFERENCE BETWEEN --

A. I AM NOT SAYING THAT EITHER. I DECIDED TO ADDRESS THAT PARTICULAR DIFFERENCE OF OPINION YESTERDAY, BUT I AM NOT SUGGESTING THAT THERE ARE OTHERS AND I AM NOT SUGGESTING THERE ARE NOT OTHERS.

Q. DO YOU HAVE THE ANSWER TO MY QUESTION YESTERDAY ON WHETHER THE ADMINISTRATION WILL AGREE TO SENATOR BYRD'S REQUEST NOT TO SEND THE LETTERS OF OFFER UNTIL AFTER THE PANAMA TREATY DEBATE?

A. YES, WE POSTED THAT. (SEE IN POSTED ANSWERS SECTION AT END OF MESSAGE.)

Q. DO YOU HAVE ANYTHING ON THE STORY OF WEIZMAN'S THREATENED RESIGNATION, AND, TWO, DO YOU KNOW WHETHER UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 06 STATE 058391

WEIZMAN IS GOING TO MEET WITH PRESIDENT CARTER?

A. WE HAVE SEEN THE REPORTS THAT MR. WEIZMAN WAS PLANNING TO RESIGN, AND I CAN'T CONFIRM THOSE COMMENTS TO YOU, IF INDEED THEY TOOK PLACE, AND OBVIOUSLY I WOULD HAVE NO COMMENT ON WHAT IS AN INTERNAL ISRAELI MATTER.

LET ME SEE IF I CAN BE ANY MORE HELPFUL IN TERMS OF HIS

SCHEDULE. WELL, I HAVE A QUESTION HERE THAT SAYS,
"DOESN'T HIS SCHEDULED MEETING WITH THE PRESIDENT SHOW --"
BLAH, BLAH, BLAH. SO, I ASSUME, IN FACT, THAT FROM THIS
QUESTION THAT HE DOES HAVE A MEETING WITH THE PRESIDENT,
BUT I WOULD SUGGEST THAT YOU ASK THE WHITE HOUSE ABOUT THE
PRESIDENT'S SCHEDULE.

Q. WHAT DO YOU HAVE ON HIS SCHEDULE?

A. HE IS GOING TO BE SEEING THE SECRETARY ON MARCH 9,
AND HE IS IN TOWN AT THE INVITATION OF THE SECRETARY OF
DEFENSE, SO OBVIOUSLY HE IS GOING TO BE SPENDING A GOOD
DEAL OF TIME OVER AT THE PENTAGON WITH HIS COLLEAGUE,
AND I THINK THE PLACE TO TALK ABOUT THE SUBSTANCE OF
WHAT HE IS HERE FOR IS OVER AT THE PENTAGON.

Q. CAN YOU ENLIGHTEN US ON THE MEETING THAT THE SECRETARY
HAD WITH RABBI SCHERER THIS MORNING?

A. NO, I AM SORRY, I DON'T HAVE A READOUT ON THAT.

Q. WHO INITIATED THE MEETING?

A. I WILL CHECK ON THAT.
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 07 STATE 058391

Q. IS IT THE ADMINISTRATION'S VIEW THAT THE ISRAELI
PLAN FOR THE WEST BANK IS CONSONANT WITH YOUR
INTERPRETATION OF 242?

A. I AM JUST NOT IN A POSITION TO COMMENT ON THAT NOW.
I AM NOT GOING TO GO BEYOND WHAT I WAS SAYING
YESTERDAY ABOUT RESOLUTION 242. I AM JUST NOT IN A
POSITION TO DO THAT -- AND ITS IMPLICATIONS.

Q. THERE IS A REPORT IN "AVIATION WEEK" THAT TAIWAN IS
CONSIDERING BUYING TWO SQUADRONS OF ISRAELI KFIR
FIGHTERS, AND OF COURSE, BECAUSE OF THE ENGINES, YOU
WILL HAVE THE VETO POWER OF SUCH A DEAL. CAN YOU GIVE
US A POSITION ON SUCH A SALE?

A. I HAVEN'T SEEN ANYTHING ON THAT. BUT I'LL CERTAINLY
TAKE THE QUESTION FOR YOU.

2. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS TAKEN AT THE MARCH 6
BRIEFING, THE FOLLOWING ANSWERS WERE POSTED IN THE
DEPARTMENT PRESS OFFICE.

Q. HAVE WE RECEIVED ANYTHING IN WRITING FROM THE

ISRAELIS ON THEIR INTERPRETATION OF RESOLUTION 242,
AND IF SO, WHEN?

A. --THE ISRAELIS HAVE MADE THEIR VIEWS KNOWN TO US ON
A WIDE RANGE OF ISSUES RELATING TO THE PACE PROCESS,
BUT WE ARE NOT PREPARED TO GET INTO THESE DIPLOMATIC
EXCHANGES PUBLICLY.

Q. SENATOR BYRD SAID ON SATURDAY THAT HE HAD INFORMED
THE ADMINISTRATION THAT HE WOULD LIKE TO HAVE FORMAL
NOTIFICATION OF THE PLANE SALE DEFERRED UNTIL AFTER ITS
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 08 STATE 058391

DEBATE ON THE PANAMA CANAL TREATIES. IS THIS ACCEPTABLE
TO THE ADMINISTRATION?

A. IT IS PERHAPS A BIT EARLY TO TELL IF THE PANAMA
CANAL DEBATE WILL STILL BE ON THE FLOOR OF THE SENATE
AFTER THE EASTER RECESS. HOWEVER, WE HAVE BEEN IN
CONTACT WITH SENATOR BYRD ON THE TIMING OF OUR FORMAL
NOTIFICATION AND WILL DISCUSS THIS QUESTION WITH HIM
AND THE TWO FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEES PRIOR TO THE
SUBMISSION. VANCE

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TEXT, PRESS CONFERENCES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 07 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE058391
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: WBHARRIS:RGH
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780103-0500
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780396/aaaaddjg.tel
Line Count: 308
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: adb432cc-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN NEA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 6
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 mar 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3412739
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING - MARCH 7
TAGS: PFOR, SOPN, XF
To: AMMAN BEIRUT MULTIPLE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/adb432cc-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014